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Letter dated 22 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Finland hosted the pan-European workshop entitled "Forests in the changing environment" in Koli, Finland, from 3 to 5 September 2008.

The workshop is an integral part of the Work Programme of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. The Workshop report (see annex) captures the highlights of the deliberations and key findings of the Workshop. The report, as a regional contribution to the United Nations Forum on Forests, is a valuable source of shared views on priority issues related to the role of sustainable forest management in the changing environment: climate change, loss of forest cover, forest degradation, desertification, biodiversity conservation and protected areas. It is also available at the workshop website www.mmm.fi/forests/koli2008 as well as other workshop materials.

The Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe invited the Government of Finland to submit the report to the United Nations Forum on Forests. I should be grateful if the report could be issued as a document of the eighth session of the Forum.

(*Signed*) Kirsti **Lintonen**
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*

Pan-European workshop on "Forests in the changing environment"

Koli, Finland, 3 to 5 September 2008

WORKSHOP REPORT

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* The text of the annex is reproduced as submitted.

1. PROCEEDINGS

1.1 Introduction

The 5th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) in Warsaw in November 2007 welcomed the achievements of the seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), including the Non-Legally-Binding Instrument on all types of forests (NLBI). Ministers highlighted the importance of providing European inputs to the international forest policy dialogue. The European countries committed themselves to develop, in cooperation with regional bodies, processes and agreements, consistent inputs to the work of the UNFF.

According to the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the UNFF, its eighth session in April 2009 will address, among its agenda items, forests in a changing environment. This will include thematic issues on forests and climate change, reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification including low forest cover countries, and forest and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas. The UNFF8 will also address the theme "Means of implementation for sustainable forest management" including considerations on a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework.

As part of the MCPFE Work Programme, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, with financial support from the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, organized a pan-European workshop "Forests in the changing environment" in Koli, Finland, on 3-5 September 2008. The workshop provided a forum for discussion and elaboration of a contribution from Europe to the eighth session of the UNFF.

The objectives of the Koli workshop were to:

- Explore what are the priority issues related to the role of forests and sustainable forest management in the changing environment: climate change, loss of forest cover, forest degradation, desertification, biodiversity, protected areas;
- Share views on how to address these priority issues;
- Discuss how to ensure coherent actions at the national, regional and global levels; and
- Provide a basis for a regional contribution to the work of the UNFF.

The workshop was attended by 37 participants from 18 countries and 14 participants from 13 organizations from Europe and globally. The workshop was co-chaired by Mr. Heikki Granholm from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland, and Mr. Arne Ivar Sletnes from the Liaison Unit, Oslo (LUO) of the MCPFE.

The workshop participants had received in advance the Background document prepared by the organizers and the Background note prepared jointly by the MCPFE/LUO, UNECE/FAO Secretariat and EfE/PEBLDS Joint Secretariat. The Background document gave an overview on the status and trends of issues under the overall theme "Forests in a changing environment" from a global perspective. The Background note described achievements, challenges and planned actions in the pan-European region in relation to issues to be addressed at the UNFF8.

Despite the excellent and interesting keynote presentations, one of the participants stated that desertification was not adequately addressed. The Co-chair pointed out, however, that the Background note and information submitted by the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification also addressed issues related to desertification.

In order to allow for focused and action-oriented discussion at the workshop, three working groups were formed based on the three UNFF8 themes under "Forest in a changing environment". The working groups identified, on the basis of statements, presentations and information submitted, the main issues under each theme and then proposed concrete actions at the national, regional and global levels. Proposals for consideration for the UNFF8 and other relevant processes were also formulated. As an outcome of the workshop, the conclusions presented in chapter 2 of this report were drawn up.

In the end, the participants expressed their appreciation to the Government of Finland and to the organizers for their hospitality and excellent workshop arrangements.

1.2 Summary of statements and presentations[1]

At the opening session, ***Mr. Jouni Lind,*** *State Secretary from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland,* welcomed experts and participants to the workshop, Koli and Finland. He drew attention to the background of the workshop and provided guidance for the workshop discussions. He pointed out, for example, that in order to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries financial support is not sufficient. Policy reforms should also be stimulated, and the NLBI could provide a useful tool to this end. He also

[1] Statements, presentations and other workshop materials are available at www.mmm.fi/forests/koli2008.

summarized the recently adopted Finnish National Forest Programme for 2015, indicating that the NFP, together with the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland (METSO) 2008-2015, addresses in a balanced manner the issues relevant to "Forests in the changing environment".

Mr. Arne Ivar Sletnes *delivered a statement on behalf of Mr. Knut Oistad, Norway, the representative of the General Coordinating Committee of the MCPFE.* In the statement it was noted that since the 1990s the MCPFE has responded to the global discussions on sustainable development by elaborating a conceptual frame for, a common understanding of and operational approaches for sustainable forest management in the pan-European region. The forest issues are in the core of several international processes and priority concerns in the global community, notably within the areas of climate, energy, biological diversity, food security and water. It was also noted that forest experts and processes need to have a broader perspective when providing proper solutions to common challenges and not limit their attention only to the MCPFE and the UNFF.

On behalf of the UNFF Secretariat, ***Mr. Peter Csoka,*** *Officer-in-Charge,* thanked the Government of Finland for organizing the workshop, underlying the timeliness of the discussions. He emphasized the importance of the tasks the UNFF8 will have in front of it, especially in the light of the important developments on the related areas of climate change, biodiversity and desertification, It is opportune to consider how the UNFF and the NLBI can contribute to advancing the work on those areas and how the profile of sustainable forest management (SFM) could be enhanced in other international processes. He also underlined that regional inputs and the voluntary submission from Member States are expected to provide a rich basis for the Forum's considerations and encouraged participants to submit timely inputs.

The Executive Secretary of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), ***Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaf,*** had sent a written statement to the workshop in which he highlighted the importance of the work towards sustainable management and conservation of forest resources and of harnessing the opportunities for stronger collaboration between the UNFF and CBD.

The Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) provided a note on the status of negotiations on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD) under the UNFCCC process. The matters to be considered as part of the negotiation process include policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) provided a concept note on issues relevant to forests and desertification. The note highlighted the importance of forests in drylands, promotion of forest restoration and the management of drylands. Economic options and incentives, capacity building, promotion of livelihoods, land tenure and forest governance are key issues in future deliberations.

Prof Jonas Nagahuedi Mbongu Sodi, *Executive Secretary of the COMIFAC,* provided a written statement for the workshop.

The three keynote presentations gave further information and ideas to stimulate the discussions at the workshop.

Dr. Markku Kanninen, *Director, Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR),* gave a presentation on "Direct and indirect causes of deforestation, forest degradation and desertification". He noted that forests are now receiving a level of international attention not seen since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. The Stem Report (in 2006) and its sobering forecast of the economic costs associated with climate change was compelling in reminding policy makers of the important linkages between forests and climate: one-fifth of total annual carbon emissions now come from land-use change, most of which involves tropical deforestation. Every year some 13 million hectares of forest is lost, and deforestation now adds more carbon to the atmosphere than comes from the fossil fuel-intensive global transport sector. The world can no longer afford to ignore the role of deforestation in global warming.

Dr. Kanninen concluded that:

- Because forests play an important role in the global carbon cycle and emissions from deforestation and degradation count for about 20 % of global carbon emissions, reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation in developing countries (REDD) are likely to be part of the climate protection regime "post-2012" that will succeed the Kyoto Protocol, which ends in 2012.

- The success of REDD in reducing emissions will depend on tackling profound market and governance failures. REDD policies will have to strengthen the institutional alignment of economic actors and the public interest, a challenge made more difficult by the complexity of the issues behind deforestation and the fact that many of the causes are external to the forestry sector.

- Policies need to be tailored to address diverse local situations while removing perverse subsidies that encourage forest conversion, ending unsustainable extraction, devolving rights and responsibilities to local forest users, and promoting the other benefits and ecosystem services of forests besides carbon storage and sequestration.

- For forestry sector, it is important to demonstrate the role of forests and forestry in general and sustainable forest management (SFM) in particular in climate change mitigation and adaptation. For REDD, this is closely related to the "second D", i.e. building understanding and links between "reduced degradation" and measures that are commonly used in forestry for managing carbon pools, such as sustainable forest management, reforestation, rehabilitation, and restoration.

- Collaboration with other sectors (such as agriculture, energy, transport, urban development, and law enforcement) is the key. This can be achieved, for instance, by incorporating climate change adaptation and mitigation into national forest programs (NFPs) and, vice versa, by incorporating forests into national plans and programs for climate change adaptation and mitigation, poverty reduction, etc.

Dr. Gert-Jan Nabuurs, *Associate Professor, Alterra, the Wageningen University in the Netherlands,* gave a presentation on the "Role of forests and climate change: impacts, adaptation and mitigation". He started with a summary of the forestry chapters in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 4th Assessment Report. The IPCC concluded that forestry sector has a very large mitigation potential, both from enhancing sinks as well as by reducing sources from deforestation. The mitigation potential is by far the largest (and against low costs) in reducing deforestation in developing countries. This can be achieved in line with sustainable development of those societies. He noted that the IPCC assessment has shortcomings as well: it has been produced in a short time from a wide variety of literature sources. The IPCC could possibly initiate concerted action in between the assessment reports. Dr. Nabuurs continued that we understand very little about the impacts of climate change, making combined adaptation and mitigation actions very difficult. This uncertainty also leads to lack of action from the forest sector.

Dr. Nabuurs went on to the European aspects. Europe has a highly diverse forest estate, spread over 40 countries and with different issues in each region. He noted that collaboration in Europe in the climate field could be improved especially in the implementation of mitigation and adaptation. Further collaboration between national governments but also with the forest sector and other sectors could be improved to enhance a more proactive behaviour of the European forest sector to mitigate climate change and adapt to it. Naturally this needs to be developed in a regionally specific way, taking into account regional circumstances.

Dr. Elena Kulikova, *Forest Program, Director from the WWF-Russia,* gave a presentation on the "Role of forests and biological diversity". She noted that, despite the efforts undertaken, forest biological diversity is still under threat and deforestation and degradation of forests have dramatic consequences for

biodiversity, the global climate and people. Major threats for forest biodiversity are presented by agriculture expansion (cattle, soy, palm oil, etc.), unsustainable forest management (including illegal logging and related trade), irresponsible forest based industry and bioenergy/fuel production, and certain other factors. She noted that during last decades a number of successes related to biodiversity conservation have been achieved: protected area networks now represent roughly 11% of the planet's forests and the concept of sustainable forest management is getting much better understanding and implementation.

Dr. Kulikova recognized that, due to new global challenges, SFM has its limitations: the forest sector alone will not be able to reduce forest loss, but there are number of issues beyond the control of the forest sector due to global trends emerging alongside, including sectors influencing the forest sector - agriculture, energy, etc. This means that SFM, as a very important mechanism supportive to biodiversity goals, should be integrated with other sectors. Among the major challenges concerning the conservation of forest biological diversity the most significant ones are climate change mitigation and adaptation, the ongoing alarming global forest loss, emerging issues such as bioenergy, including biofuels, the need to integrate conservation and management of forests into broader land-use policies, issues of forests and poverty reduction, and some other factors. It is important that both public and private sectors address these challenges, and responsible production and consumption patterns are needed. She drew attention to the new WWF initiative for zero net deforestation by 2020. Dr. Kulikova also noted the need for a strong collaboration across relevant international processes such as the CBD, UNFF and UNFCCC.

Dr. Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs *from the LUO* presented the Background note. She reported about the pan-European MCPFE commitments, achievements and plans for future implementation concerning forests in the changing environment. The presentation highlighted the importance of the pan-European consensus on sustainable forest management and policy tools for its implementation. Actions in the MCPFE Work Programme which are relevant to the workshop topics were also presented.

2. WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS

Forests are a vital element in sustainable development and contribute to addressing global, regional and national concerns, including issues related to forests in a changing environment. This comprises issues such as forests and climate change, reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including low forest cover countries, as well as forest and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas - all of which will be addressed at the UNFF8.

The workshop participants recognized that several of these issues are closely interrelated. As a result of the workshop priority issues were identified and proposals for concrete actions for further consideration were formulated and clustered as follows:

- Promoting and communicating the role of forests in sustainable development;
- Mainstreaming of sustainable forest management;
- Strengthening coordination and collaboration;
- Improving forest governance;
- Promoting wise use of forest products and bioenergy;
- Addressing climate change impacts, risks and adaptation;
- Improving monitoring and terminology; and
- Developing economic valuation of the multiple products and services of forests.

2.1 Promoting and communicating the role of forests in sustainable development

Forests have multiple positive roles which contribute to sustainable development. The forest sector should send a positive message on the role of forests in addressing broader issues associated with climate change, desertification, biodiversity, poverty reduction, etc. Without a thorough understanding of what is at stake, communication between different sectors and actors on forest related issues is difficult and prone to misunderstandings. This requires common understanding of what sustainable forest management can do to promote broader objectives, such as conservation of biodiversity, combating desertification, mitigating climate change and poverty reduction. The visibility of the forest sector needs to be improved at the political level and among the public.

Possible actions at the national level include:

- Government agencies and NGOs should promote awareness raising campaigns and dissemination addressed to civil society and policy makers;
- Government agencies should promote multi-stakeholder participation e.g. through setting up consultative groups for forests; and
- Government agencies should establish a high-level inter-ministerial mechanism/forum to discuss forest related issues.

At the regional and global levels, possible actions include:

- Regional and international entities and NGOs should carry out awareness raising campaigns and dissemination of forest related information to relevant audiences (e.g. through the European Forest Week and the International Year of Forests 2011).

Suggestions to the UNFF8 include:

- Disseminating positive messages on the role of forests in contributing to solving broader issues (climate change, deforestation, desertification, biodiversity, poverty, etc.);

- Encouraging members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to actively share information on issues related to sustainable forest management, climate change, biodiversity, desertification, etc.; and

- Developing a communication strategy for promoting sustainable forest management.

2.2 Mainstreaming of sustainable forest management

Sustainable forest management (SFM) is a key forest sector concept capturing the multiple functions of forests and objectives of forestry. SFM also reflects a broad range of objectives of other sectors and processes. There is a need to disseminate understanding among other sectors and processes on the multiple objectives of sustainable forest management. There is also a need to mainstream SFM to decision-making, planning and implementation procedures of other sectors through awareness creation, capacity building and cooperation.

Possible actions at the national, regional and global levels include:

- Integrating sustainable forest management to other sectors through outreach, awareness raising and cooperation (agriculture, energy, water management, spatial planning, infrastructure, etc.); and

- Increasing understanding of how sustainable forest management addresses:

    - climate, deforestation, desertification, biodiversity, poverty, etc. issues in an integrated way

    - application of the ecosystem approach.

At the national level, the national forest programme (NFP) or a similar approach can provide an umbrella to address underlying issues, but forest sector should also

engage with other national strategies. At the regional level the key actors are regional entities in cooperation with the FAO. In Europe, the MCPFE, EfE/PEBLDS, UNECE and FAO and other organizations should continue to work together. At the global level the key actors include the UNFF in cooperation with the CPF members and their governing bodies.

Suggestions to the UNFF8 include:

- Supporting the mainstreaming of sustainable forest management in other sectors; and

- Clarification and definition of the key elements of sustainable forest management, including understanding of its potentials and limitations, and communicating these issues within and outside the forest sector.

2.3 Strengthening coordination and collaboration

There is fragmentation of the treatment of the forest related issues and lack of coordination among various instruments, processes, organizations and sectors at all levels. There is an increasing understanding that many sectors, such as forest, agriculture, environment, and energy sectors, as well as key international multilateral environmental processes and agreements, such as the UNFF, UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD, address the same core issues, face similar challenges and broadly aim at similar objectives. In order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the processes and the contribution of the sectors to the benefit of the society and the environment, there is a need for increased collaboration, coordination and coherence, with special reference to forest and climate change and biodiversity frameworks and processes, between the relevant sectors. Good governance is needed to encompass, through coherent framework approaches, all these interlinked issues.

Possible actions at the national level include:

- National forest programmes (NFPs) should incorporate forest related objectives and measures from Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, Sustainable Development Strategies, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, National Adaptation Programmes of Action, national climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, and energy strategies, and vice versa; and

- Coordination between national focal points of UNFF, UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD and other relevant actors should be ensured.

Possible actions at the regional level include:

- Continuation of the existing cooperation between MCPFE and EfE/PEBLDS as it provides a good model for cross-sectoral cooperation. A similar model could be replicated for climate change, desertification and other issues. European achievements and experiences should also be shared with other regions.

- Further strengthening of the science-policy interaction in the MCPFE and other processes.

Possible actions at the global level include:

- Forest sector should address climate, biodiversity and desertification concerns and convey forest sector priorities and solutions to these processes, including contributing to the UNFCCC Bali Action Plan, CBD COP decisions and documents of the preparatory work for the COP9 of the UNCCD;

- Climate, biodiversity and desertification processes should benefit from taking into account SFM and the policies and measures of the NLBI;

- Promoting research collaboration across sectors. Continuation of the work of the IUFRO-led initiative on science and technology (scientific expert panel), also including issues other than adaptation to climate change. Any further work on climate change would benefit from coordination with the IPCC. Results should be widely disseminated to outside world and to the governing bodies of the CPF members;

- Promoting further cross-sectoral interaction, Forest Days at the UNFCCC COPs as an example;

- Sharing information on ongoing negotiations with the CPF members and wider audiences; and

- Continuation and strengthening the work of the CPF on forests and climate change.

Suggestions to the UNFF8 include:

- Call for and development of a format for a mutual recognition of the UNFF and NBLI and the Rio Conventions;

- Responding positively to the CBD COP9 request to explore the possibilities for developing a joint work plan between the CBD and UNFF secretariats and considering working with the secretariats of the other processes; and

- The UNFF should use its position in the UN system to further the understanding of the role of forests and SFM, also as a source of multiple forest products and services, in combating climate change, loss of biodiversity, and deforestation and desertification.

2.4 Improving forest governance

Good governance is a prerequisite for SFM. Weak governance is one of the underlying causes of deforestation, forest degradation and desertification and biodiversity loss. Lack of clarity of property rights is also a major problem.

Key issues include illegal logging and practices, lack of effective implementation, and corruption and money laundering. Good governance is also the prerequisite for the effective use of financial resources for SFM. Research, information, education and communication are also integral elements of good governance, and should be included in NFP processes.

There is an increasing understanding of the inter-linkages of good forest governance and the emerging REDD mechanism: credible REDD requires good governance. On the other hand, it is expected that a well-functioning REDD process will have positive implications for forest governance.

Possible actions at the national level include:

- Clarification of property and land tenure;
- Development and implementation of long-term land use strategies;
- Creating effective regulatory frameworks for implementing sustainable forest management;
- Avoiding overlaps and inconsistencies of laws and regulations related to forests;
- Strengthening institutional as well as other capacities in this context, collaboration between forest sector institutions and institutions outside of the sector (law enforcement, judiciary, tax authorities, etc.), and collaboration between the science community, private sector and civil society actors; and
- Involving stakeholders in the management of forests, including protected areas, through collaborative management practices and benefit sharing.

The development of forest owners/landowners organizations, which is linked to the institutional capacity, could also be important and supportive for the process. It is important to use various tools, such as incentives and proper land use

planning, to support the regulatory framework. National forest programmes (NFPs) can provide an overall framework for these actions and a needed and effective link to other sectors and broader objectives.

At the regional level it is important to reinforce, strengthen and further develop the regional FLEG(T) processes.

At the global level governments should invite the FAO and other CPF members to provide technical cooperation to states to improve good governance, for example, by strengthening the role of the NFP Facility, and to work on the best practices and code of conduct. Also other processes, such as the UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, need to recognize the importance of good governance in forest and forest related sectors to achieve the goals set within these processes and to promote coherent actions.

Suggestions to the UNFF8 include:

- Recognizing further the role of good governance and law enforcement in forest and forest related sectors for achieving the global objectives on forests;

- Ensuring that the issue of good governance as a prerequisite for the effective use of financial resources is addressed in the discussion on means of implementation;

- Linking the recognition of the full value of forest goods and services to governance issues, and clarifying these linkages; and

- Supporting the further development of the FLEG and FLEGT processes.

2.5 Promoting forest products and bioenergy

Forests contribute to climate change mitigation in several ways, including carbon sequestration and storage in forests and wood products, supplying renewable energy and REDD. At present many issues, e.g. sustainability criteria for various purposes, are being addressed separately despite the evident trade-offs between them. In a broader context the socially and environmentally responsible production and consumption patterns require special attention.

Possible actions at the national level include:

- Countries should develop strategies and policies for the forest sector contribution to climate change mitigation, including the promotion of the wise use of wood from sustainably managed forests for renewable energy and raw material and substituting energy and raw material from non-renewable sources; and

- Support policies and measures that promote responsible production and consumption of forest products and wood energy, including mechanisms such as public procurement, voluntary certification and responsible purchasing.

Possible actions at the regional level include:

- Developing a regional vision of the optimum contribution of the forest sector to mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration and storage in forests and harvested wood products, through substitution in supplying of renewable energy and raw material and through REDD; and

- Improving/developing, on the basis of sustainable forest management, clear and coherent principles, standards and verification and monitoring mechanisms related to the emerging issues, to be integrated with other sector policies, while ensuring stakeholders participation.

Possible actions at the global level include:

- Relevant agencies, particularly the UNFCCC, should improve the interconnection between the various negotiation processes in order to achieve a balanced treatment of forests and the forest sector in climate change mitigation.

Suggestions to the UNFF 8 include:

- Analysis of the implications of the different options for the forest sector, including forest products and bioenergy, to contribute to climate change mitigation and help countries to optimize the reduction of emissions through the forest sector. Possible impact on soil, biodiversity and environment in general should be taken into account. The UNFF should use its position in the UN system to further the understanding of the role of forests and SFM, also as a source of multiple forest products and bioenergy.

2.6 Addressing climate change impacts, risks and adaptation

Climate change will have serious implications for the human society and environment, including forests. It will increase the risks in forests, such as forest fires, windfalls, droughts, insects and other pest and diseases. There is a need to reduce such risks both by the mitigation of climate change and through adaptation of forests to the inevitable changes. Despite the significant efforts in research and development related to adaptation, serious uncertainties remain. Cost-effective adaptation practices and strategies are required for forests and ecosystems that will be affected by the climate change.

Possible actions at the national level include:

- Carrying out vulnerability assessments in the forest sector, including risk analysis and development of rapid response mechanisms in SFM;
- Developing and implementing practices and strategies for the adaptation of forests and forestry to climate change, including the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources;
- Integrating adaptation to climate change into national forest programmes; and
- Continuing to promote research on forests in climate change, including research on forest genetic resources.

Possible actions at the regional level include:

- Consideration of developing strategies for the adaptation of forests and forestry to climate change;
- Continuing to promote research on forests in climate change and to share results and information; and
- Promoting the establishment of risk assessment procedures and monitoring systems for forests and the rapid response mechanism based on inter-sectoral collaboration.

Suggestions to the UNFF8 include:

- Promoting communication on the role and contribution of the forest sector to all discussion of the UNFCCC including the Bali Action Plan; and
- Emphasizing the need for close cooperation between the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD and CCD) and the UNFF in the formulation of policies and action with regard to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

2.7 Improving monitoring and terminology

Monitoring of forest resources and its changes is crucial for informed decision making. Adequate monitoring systems are also necessary for the eventual REDD mechanism and for continued and reliable forest biodiversity assessment. There is a need to improve, strengthen and streamline the monitoring systems of forest resources at various levels to ensure efficient SFM implementation, coordination and information exchange.

Possible actions at the national level include:

- Strengthening national forest inventories/assessments to better cover all aspects of SFM (more parameters relevant e.g. for forest health, biodiversity, carbon storage, and socio-economic and cultural aspects);

- Ensuring permanent and continuous monitoring through adequate frequency (5-10 years);

- Strengthening the existing net of sample plots; and

- Ensuring coordination among the national focal points of different international processes to ensure coherent and cost-effective monitoring and assessment.

Possible actions at the regional level include:

- Strengthening coordination between national inventories, including those by bio-geographical zones (e.g. boreal, temperate, Mediterranean and others) and by forest types; and

- Providing guidance to increase the quality and comparability of forest and climate related data and information.

Possible actions at the global level include:

- Exchange of information on inventories/assessments to improve methodologies and on the dynamics of biodiversity;

- Encouraging wider use of the Global Forest Resources Assessment by different bodies;

- Ensuring better coordination among different international processes;

- Promoting capacity building for monitoring and assessment;

- Establishment of a global database of definitions e.g. by the FAO in collaboration with the other CPF members, including a common definition of forest degradation and forest types, and making information broadly available e.g. through the web; and

- Continuing to clarify the definitions used and promoting the comparability of terminology (FAO in collaboration with other CPF members).

Suggestions to the UNFF8 include:

- Inviting CPF members to develop indicators and methods for monitoring progress toward the achievement of the Four Global Objectives on Forests; and

- Encouraging the consistent use of terms and definitions across institutions, processes and conventions, and inviting the FAO and other CPF members to continue harmonization efforts.

2.8 Developing economic valuation of the multiple products and services of forests

Major driving forces for deforestation are coming from outside the forest sector (population pressure, agricultural expansion, demand for wood/energy, demand for land, conflicts, poverty, etc.). In the absence of proper economic valuation of the full range of forest products and services from forests and a payment system for environmental services/global public goods, forests often fall victim of decisions based on short-term interests. This is the case especially when land tenure is unclear and governance is weak.

Possible actions at the national level include:

- Promoting innovative ways to create markets and payment mechanisms for the full range of forest products and services;

- Forest administrations, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders and other government entities, should explain the value of forest products and services by using NFPs or equivalent strategies and by linking valuation and NFPs to the broader national development agenda;

- Promoting equitable benefit sharing among forest stakeholders; and

- Raising awareness on the value of forest products and services, and mobilizing public support through organising campaigns and preparing education materials on the role of forests and forestry. This can be done by forest administrations in cooperation with civil society, education, and media.

At the regional and global levels possible actions include:

- Facilitating the development and implementation of measures, including economic tools, in order to broaden and diversify the financial basis for sustainable forest management and to maintain forest functions; and

- Coordinating the implementation and maintaining the consistency of actions within the CPF, and coordinating efforts and harmonizing forest-related actions and measures between the UNFF and UNCCD, UNFCCC, CBD and other relevant actors.

Suggestions to the UNFF 8 include:

- Addressing the driving forces of deforestation, forest degradation, desertification, climate change and loss of forest biodiversity in the discussion on forests in a changing environment;

- Inviting other relevant processes to cooperate in the development of the economic valuation of the multiple products and services of forests; and

- Giving particular attention to the economic valuation of goods and services in the discussion on the means of implementation and, in particular, that of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework.

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United Nations Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

Note by the Secretariat**

Summary

The present note describes the programme activities of the Forum secretariat funded from the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests during the biennium 2008-2009.

The generous contributions of donor countries to the Trust Fund are gratefully acknowledged. These contributions greatly facilitated the work of the Forum secretariat. Without them, many key activities would not have been possible.

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** The delay in the issuance of the present note was due to the need to include updated information.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 25 of its multi-year programme of work for the period 2007-2015 (resolution 7/1, annex), the United Nations Forum on Forests called upon interested donor Governments, financial institutions and other organizations to make voluntary financial contributions to the Forum Trust Fund. Other countries in a position to do so and other interested parties were also urged to contribute to the Trust Fund. In order to ensure transparency, the Forum requested the secretariat to report to the Forum at each session on the operation of the Trust Fund, including on the amount and source of contributions and a description of how funds were spent.

2. In the biennium 2008-2009, the Forum secretariat is programmed to carry out a series of activities financed by the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests. All the activities related to General Assembly resolution 62/98, by which the Assembly adopted the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, or to the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015. The Trust Fund was also used to supplement funds from the regular budget (programme 7: Economic and social affairs, subprogramme 9: Sustainable forest management) in implementing the programme of work for the current biennium.

3. The generous contributions of the donor countries to the Trust Fund are gratefully acknowledged. These contributions greatly enhanced the work of the Forum secretariat and the present level of activities would not have been possible without them. More specifically, a substantial part of the activities of the secretariat in the biennium 2008-2009 were supported from the trust fund through: (a) consultancies; (b) cost of conference services for the ad hoc expert group meeting to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework, held in Vienna from 11 to 14 November 2008, and the expert group meeting to be held in Rome on 12 and 13 March 2009; (c) travel of representatives of developing countries, particularly from the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to the eighth session of the Forum; (d) travel of staff to participate in various forest-related meetings and events; (e) support to the Bureau in preparing for future sessions of the Forum, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2007/278; and (f) salaries of temporary staff members of the secretariat.

4. The 2008-2009 allotment from the Trust Fund amounts to $2,616,119, inclusive of programme support costs. The total contributions to the Trust Fund in 2008-2009 to date amount to $630,265, or approximately only one quarter of the funds needed to implement the programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium.

II. Consultancies (on special service agreement basis)

5. In view of the human resource constraints in the Forum secretariat, additional support and expertise was needed to assist the secretariat in implementing the programme elements below:

Purpose of consultancy	*Relationship to programme element of 2008-2009 programme budget*
Two consultants were hired to provide expert advice during the ad hoc expert group meeting to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework. One of the consultants also assisted the secretariat in preparing a background paper entitled "Financing for sustainable forest management: mobilizing financial resources to support the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and to promote sustainable forest management".	Programme budget 2008-2009, outputs 9.78 (a) (i) a and b (substantive servicing of meetings and parliamentary documentation) and 9.78 (a) (iii) (servicing of ad hoc expert groups).

III. Conference services for expert group meetings

6. According to United Nations rules, ad hoc expert group meetings do not carry the entitlement for interpretation services, which can be provided only on the basis of availability. As there were no interpretation services available for the planned meetings, the secretariat was required to cover these costs from the Trust Fund.

Description	*Relationship to programme element of 2008-2009 programme budget*
Cost of conference services at the United Nations Office at Vienna (11-14 November 2008), including for conference rooms, technical support and interpretation into all United Nations languages. Cost of interpretation for expert meeting to be held in Rome (12-13 March 2009).	Programme budget 2008-2009, output 9.78 (a) (i) a.

IV. Travel of experts and representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition

7. Travel assistance was provided to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. Travel assistance was also provided for the representatives of major groups from developing countries to participate in the multi-stakeholder dialogue and in the eighth session of the Forum.

Purpose of travel of representatives	*Relationship to programme element of 2008-2009 programme budget*
United Nations Forum on Forests, eighth session, New York, 20 April-1 May 2009.	Programme budget 2008-2009, output 9.78 (a) (i) a.
Multi-stakeholder dialogue at the eighth session of the Forum.	Programme budget 2008-2009, outputs 9.78 (a) (i) a and (a) iii.

V. Travel of staff members of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

8. Staff members of the secretariat participated in many key, forest-related events, including the Governing Council of the African Forest Forum, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Country-led Initiative on Financing for Sustainable Forest Management in Support of the United Nations Forum on Forests, meeting of global forest leaders on forest and climate change, the International Symposium on Sustainable Forest Management, the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission, the Partnership Forum on Climate Investment Funds, the first meeting to design a Forest Investment Programme, European Forest Week, the forty-fourth session of the International Tropical Timber Council, the United Nations Forum on Forests ad hoc expert group meeting to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Forest Day 2.

VI. Support to the Bureau in preparing for future sessions of the Forum

9. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2007/278, support can be provided to members of the Bureau of the Forum from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to cover participation in at least one meeting a year of the Bureau held in or outside New York, from designated contributions to the Trust Fund. As at January 2009, one Member State had provided a designated contribution for that purpose.

VII. Temporary staff and general temporary assistance

10. Staff members at the Professional and other levels were engaged using the extrabudgetary resources of the Trust Fund. At the Professional level, temporary staff included one P-5, one P-4 and one P-3. General temporary assistance included two P-4 level staff members. Other levels included two General Service support staff members.

VIII. Contributions to the Trust Fund

11. The contributions to the Trust Fund for the period 2008-2009 are shown in the annex to the present document. At the time of preparing the present report, no contributions to the Trust Funds had been received in 2009.

Annex

Contributions to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2000-2009

(United States dollars)

Contributor	*2000-2001*	*2002-2003*	*2004-2005*	*2006-2007*	*2008-2009*	*Total*	*Percentage of total*
Australia	39 800			37 200	33 252	110 252	1.3
Austria		30 000	12 465	25 142		67 607	0.8
Canada	32 233			10 458		42 691	0.5
European Community		6 525				6 525	0.1
Finland	36 887	236 880		120 170	47 013	440 950	5.3
Germany		216 268	126 021	215 640		557 929	6.8
Luxembourg				17 898		17 898	0.2
Netherlands				254 298		254 298	3.1
Republic of Korea				40 000		40 000	0.5
Norway	38 124	13 957	47 553	99 970		199 604	2.4
Sweden		30 000	66 346			96 346	1.2
Switzerland		154 760	85 500		50 000	290 260	2.9
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland			18 801	103 030		121 831	1.5
United States of America	1 600 000	1 525 000	1 375 000	1 050 000	500 000	6 050 000	73.4
Grand total	**1 747 044**	**2 213 390**	**1 731 686**	**1 973 806**	**630 265**	**8 296 191**	**100**

Notes:

1. In 2008, the Government of Germany contributed $124,610 to the technical cooperation project on enhanced cooperation and regional programme coordination.
2. The Government of Finland contributed $336,641 to the cost of a Junior Programme Officer for a two-year period from 2004 to 2006 and $320,000 for a Junior Programme Officer starting in October 2008.
3. In addition, the Government of Finland also contributed $187,373 to the technical cooperation project on interregional cooperation and lessons learned on sustainable forest management (2004-2007).
4. The Government of the Netherlands contributed $140,000 to the technical cooperation project on enhanced cooperation and regional programme coordination in sustainable forest management in 2007.
5. The Government of Norway has stated its intention to contribute $52,000 to the Trust Fund.